Title: Need to restore allocation of funds under Employment Assurance Scheme to Andhra Pradesh at the level of 1998-99.

DR. MANDA JAGANNATH (NAGAR KURNOOL): The Central Government had started Employment Assurance Scheme from 1993 with the objective of providing wage employment to the unskilled wage seekers who are the poorest among the poor.

This scheme has been very effective in providing employment to the landless labourers especially during the lean season.

But the Central Government's allocation under Employment Assurance Scheme to Andhra Pradesh has been reduced from Rs.167.42 crore during 1998-99 to Rs.60.8 crore during 2000-2001. Keeping in view the needs of the poor, it is very necessary to restore funding the scheme at the earlier level.

I would request the Central Government to look into the matter and restore the allocation level for Andhra Pradesh at the 1998-99 level.